

President's Message



This newsletter reflects the highlights of our work on your behalf during the first year of our new mandate.

You'll see that we chose the education of young girls and women as a priority for our first year. Council member Veronica Dryden and I addressed the Commission when they held hearings in Toronto and Council then produced *Challenges and Choices*, our final report to the Royal Commission. A subsequent meeting with the commissioners helped clarify some conflicting points they had heard during other presentations.

In February, we met with Cabinet, a first for the Council. We regularly meet with Marion Boyd, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues.

Our new mandate calls for a

higher presence in the various regions of Ontario. We responded by holding meetings in Sudbury and Windsor which were well covered by the media. Meetings are planned for other regions. Wherever we visit, we also meet informally with women's groups in the community. Many activities are also undertaken by individual Council members in their areas. Members work with the women in their regions in a variety of ways and bring forward what they've heard during our Council meetings. They are very interested in hearing directly from the women in their area. If you have a subject that you would like to discuss with your local member, or an issue that you would like her to bring to Council's attention, please contact her. You can reach her through Council's Toronto office (416:326-1840 - collect calls accepted).

During our next Council meeting in April, we will be planning our activities for the new fiscal year.

Jacqueline Pelletier

the experiences of girls and young women, taking into account the unique way that girls learn. We recommend that girls be offered the widest opportunity for future education by being encouraged to develop fully their potential in math and science and that the teaching of these be relevant to girls' lives. Other recommendations discussed the need for school boards to purchase books which reflect women's accomplishments and history; the need for girls to receive comprehensive sex education and health classes; and that women's studies courses be offered at the secondary school level.

Teacher Training:

Teachers must reflect the diversity of Ontario, and be sensitive to and aware of the various cultures that comprise Ontario. Our report calls for schools boards and faculties of education to offer compulsory courses that identify, explain and encourage discussion on teaching for diversity. Teachers and guidance counsellors must be trained to recognize and understand patriarchy and sexism so that students receive gender fair-education. Council also believes that student teachers require more classroom experience than the current two months they receive.

Violence:

We put forward a number of recommendations to ensure that schools are safe places. In particular, we recommended the development of a province-wide code of ethics and policy memorandum outlining the process schools should follow for reporting violence incidents to the police and the ministry.

The report also discusses the *continued overleaf*

Challenges and Choices Report to the Royal Commission on Learning

Ontario's education system is failing girls and women by ignoring problems that include biased curriculum, inadequate teacher training and increasing violence in schools, Council advised the Royal Commission on Learning in a presentation last November.

On behalf of Council, Jacqueline Pelletier's presentation outlined four areas: curriculum,

community schools, teacher training, and violence in the schools. Subsequently this presentation was expanded into a more formal document, entitled *Challenges and Choices for Girls and Young Women* and includes a new section on girls dropping out.

Curriculum:

Council believes that curricula must be developed that recognize

CHALLENGES & CHOICES

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notion of community schools/ community education and contains a separate section on problems faced by young women when they try returning to school after dropping out.

Meeting with the Royal Commission

In mid-February, Council convened a round table meeting with the Commissioners, and representatives from government and women's groups who had made presentations to the Commission. The

purpose of the meeting was to offer clarification of some issues, suggestions, advice, and direction to the Commissioners, specifically from women's perspective. Some ideas discussed included female participation in math, school curriculum and learning materials, teaching practices and girls' different learning styles. Our report, *Challenges and Choices*, available at no charge, was presented to the Commissioners. The Commission must present its report to the Ministry of Education and Training by December 1994. ◆

GOODBYE

to three Council members.

January 13/94 marked the end of appointments for **Jane Field, Toronto; Kathryn Dominey, Kingston; and Sarah Melvin, Sioux Lookout.**

All three have chosen not to seek reappointment and will pursue other interests and challenges. The Ontario government expects to appoint new members in by June/94.

Community Economic Development

Recently, Council president Jacqueline Pelletier, and vice-presidents Eva Shields and Rosalind Cairncross met with staff in the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade to discuss women's participation in community economic development. It is Council's belief that women must recognize that they are an integral part of the economy. Women can also participate in economic renewal, by accessing the government funds available through *jobsOntario Community Development*. In the article below, the notion of community economic development is explained.

The recession has had a severe effect on the lives of many Ontarians. These tough economic times, resulting in layoffs and unemployment for working people, translate into especially hard times for women — and even harder times for single mothers, Aboriginal women, women of colour, immigrant women, women with disabilities and older women. What can we do to create jobs, to foster economic renewal?

While governments have significant roles to play, it's important for people to get involved — in their own communities — in developing and implementing local solutions that benefit the whole

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community. This is called "community economic development."

The government of Ontario recently announced an initiative - **jobsOntario Community Action** - to support community economic development. Between now and 1996, the government will invest \$300 million in community action initiatives. The program will help provide local communities with the resources and tools they need to undertake economic renewal projects, including both community development and capital funding projects. For example, groups might apply for community development money to bring people together to set long-term priorities and figure out how to act on them. Or groups might apply for community funding capital to build or renovate a community centre.

It's important that all members of the community have the opportunity to participate, so "communi-

ties of common bond" — which include women, racial minorities, people with disabilities, francophones and youth — will receive a minimum of ten per cent of the funding available. Traditionally, these groups have not been included in the economic renewal efforts.

In addition, the participation of these groups is also needed during development of overall community strategic plans, to ensure that their needs and perspectives are reflected there. As women, among others, participate in this new process, the broader community will learn more about the diversity of those perspectives and needs.

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For information on any aspect of this program, please call the regional manager:

In eastern Ontario:
Juliette LeGal (613) 787-4001

In southwestern Ontario:
Bill Allen (519) 767-3151

In northwestern Ontario:
Dale Ashbee (807) 475-1518

In central Ontario:
Joe Newton (416) 327-0017

In northeastern Ontario:
Fred Lalond (705) 267-8473 ◆

Regional Meetings

Council has launched a series of regional meetings to consult with women in various parts of Ontario. The first one in **Sudbury**, October 1993, was attended by Marion Boyd, Minister Responsible for Women's issues, Finance Minister Floyd Laughren and local MPP Sharon Murdock. The Ministers informed the 125 women in attendance about recent government initiatives aimed at addressing the needs of women. Issues raised during discussion included the need for gender issue training for judges, discrimination and sexual harassment at INCO, better training for police re. laying charges and restraining orders, core-funding for women's centres and the lack of accessible facilities for disabled women in Sudbury.

In January, some 50 women braved the horrific snow/ice storm to attend our **Windsor** meeting. The meeting was led by local Council member Jo-Anne Johnson and attended by several other Council members as well as local MPP Wayne Lessard. Several issues were raised including concern over job creation programs that ignore the female workforce, the taxation of child-support payments, the lack of childcare deductions for stay-at-home mothers, problems with women's apprenticeship programs, and the potential bureaucracy in licensing midwives. The possibility of addiction problems arising from the new Windsor casino were also mentioned as a significant issue for local women.

The most recent meeting was in

Toronto, where women and the economy was the focus of a round table discussion. Participants produced recommendations which suggest ways the government can support women's economic development through increased access to information and resources, the establishment of a basic annual income and the adoption of policies that would increase women's participation in the work force. These will be presented to appropriate ministers at a later date. Several participants also shared economic success stories which included individual accomplishments and group projects such as a game developed by the Women Inventors Project.

Other regional meetings will be in **Thunder Bay**, **Atikokan**, and **Ottawa** ♦

Update on Issues:

◆ **Abortion:** Ottawa has received the first free-standing abortion clinic outside of Toronto financed by the province. We believe there should be more abortion clinics, particularly in northern Ontario where abortion services are difficult to access.

◆ **An Advocacy Commission** is being established to be responsible for the design and delivery of advocacy services for seniors, and adults who have a disability. For further info, call 416: 314-9018 or toll free: 1-800-665-9092.

◆ **Childcare:** The government is considering launching universal, publicly funded, full-day education programs for children between the ages of 3 and 5. It is expected that legislation will be introduced during the spring session which commences March 21.

◆ **Employment:** The federal job-creation plan is funded equally by federal, provincial and municipi-

pal governments. JobsOntario is one of the Ontario government's efforts to put people back to work. Both programs are worthy, but we are concerned that not enough jobs are being created for women.

◆ **Employment Equity** legislation requires employers to hire and promote women, visible minorities, aboriginals and people with disabilities. Ontario is the first Canadian province with such legislation. We recognize that many women's groups were critical of this legislation - Council will be keenly monitoring its implementation.

◆ **Midwifery:** Ontario is the first province to legalize and incorporate midwives into the funded health-care system and midwives have gained legal status as health professionals. The first three midwife birthing centres will be in Toronto, Waterloo and Sudbury.

◆ **Nurse Practitioners:** The government recently announced its intention to train and

license nurse practitioners who are registered nurses with special training. They will work independently or as part of a health team. The province expects to have a newly certified group of these health professionals working in a variety of health care settings within a year. Council supports this initiative.

◆ **Sexual Orientation:** The government pledged to introduce legislation but so far has only promised same sex spousal benefits. We support the introduction of an Omnibus Bill rather than changes to individual legislation.

◆ **Social Assistance Review:** In July, the government released its document *Turning Point* which outlined the government's plans to make significant changes to social assistance. This is still at the discussion stage. Council and other women's groups have written to Minister Tony Silipo, expressing concern about some of the proposed changes. ♦

COUNCIL Update

The Council was established at arms-length from the government in 1973 and is in a unique position to question the government's direction and policies. Council's mandate is to advise the government through the Minister Responsible for Women's Issues on matters pertaining to the achievement of economic, social and legal equality for women, to respond to requests from the Minister Responsible for Women's issues, to hold regional meetings with the purpose of gathering the views of women on issues of concern in the regions; to meet annually in Toronto at which time members will have the opportunity to meet with the Premier and other Cabinet members. There are 15* members, including the president, all appointed on a part-time basis to terms of not more than three years.

*Currently three vacancies

EDITOR:

Lydia Oleksyn

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jacqueline Pelletier

President, Gloucester

Rosalind Cairncross

Vice-President, Toronto

Eva Shields

Vice-President, Atikokan

Anne Balding, Bancroft

Veronica Dryden, London

Greta Hofmann-Nemiroff, Ottawa

Pam Jackson, Grafton

Jo-Anne Johnson, Windsor

Lise Nolet, Ottawa

Rosanne Perron, Thunder Bay

Tolou Rouhani, North Bay

Pat Tobin, North Bay

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Meeting with Cabinet

For the first time in history, Council members met Cabinet members for a one-and-a-half-hour meeting on Thursday February 17, 1994. This meeting was part of Council's larger 2-day business meeting. After President Pelletier's overview, Vice-president Eva Shields spoke about prominent issues raised by women during our consultations. These included the need for the government to proceed with legislation in the area of social assistant reform, childcare and sexual orientation. She also mentioned concerns about the delisting of medical services from OHIP

coverage, the elimination of grants for university students, collection of child support payments and tracking defaulting parents. Vice-president Rosalind Cairncross outlined Council's priorities over the last year. Other members gave a series of 2-minute presentations on their activities and concerns. An open dialogue between Council and Cabinet touched on a number of issues, including women's apprenticeship and training programs, jobsOntario, breast cancer and the underfunding of women's studies in colleges and universities. ♦

International Year of the Family

This year (1994) has been designated as International Year of the Family. The UN is promoting greater international co-operation in support of the family unit as well as recognition of its diversity such as nuclear families, cohabitation, single-parent, polygamous arrangements, extended families, kinship, tribal families, reorganized and migrant units.

Breast Cancer



Jacqueline Pelletier has been appointed as the provincial spokesperson for the Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP). The OBSP was set up by the Ministry of Health in 1990 to provide a province-wide, comprehensive breast cancer screening program. It is estimated that in 1993, 2,100 women

in Ontario died from breast cancer.

Screening at an OBSP centre includes an examination of the breasts by a nurse-examiner, two-view mammography and instruction on breast self-examination. To be eligible for screening, a woman must be an Ontario resident aged 50 or older with no previous history of breast cancer, no surgical enlargement of her breasts and no mammogram within the last year. There is no charge for the service. A woman can make her own appointment or be referred by her physician. Screening results are provided in writing to each woman and her physician within two weeks of her screening visit.

Centres are located in Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Sudbury, Toronto and Windsor. A mobile screening van serves Northwestern Ontario from its base in Thunder Bay. For information about a centre in your region, call: 1-800-668-9304. ♦

Reunion avec le Conseil des ministres

reformes fondamentale du système d'aide sociale. Ce projet n'a pas dépassé les stades de la discussion. Le Conseil d'Etat a mis en place une commission d'enquête au ministère de l'Intérieur pour en éclairer les autres groupes de femmes qui ont été victimes de préoccupations. Le résultat de cette enquête sera dévoilé dans les prochaines semaines.◆

QUIZ A JOUR DE CERTAINES QUESTIONS sur le de la page 3

Cancer du sein



PERSONNEL DU CONSEIL

autres membres des ministères autres membres du Conseil des ministres Le Conseil se compose de 15* membres dont une présidence. Les membres sont nommés pour une période maximum de trois ans, à l'heure actuelle, trois postes vacants sont échelonnés sur une période de 12 mois.

REDACTION

PERSOONNEL DU CONSEIL

Greta Holmann-Nemiroff, Ottawa
Pam Jackson, Grafton
Lise-Nomé, Ottawa
Rosaanne Perron, Thunder Bay
Toulohu Ronchini, North Bay
Pat Todim, North Bay
Elayne Cefers : *Administrative Melody Oleksyn : *Community Relations 880, The Bay, 5^e étage* Teléfono: (416) 326-1840*
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En dernière heure

Reunions régionales

considérablement les femmes de la

La réunion la plus récente a eu lieu à Toronto. Les discussions ont porté à

cette occasion sur les femmes et

1. **économie: Les participants ont présenté des recommandations sur les mesures que pouvait prendre le gouvernement**

nement pour favoriser le développement économique des femmes notamment en facilitant l'accès à l'informa-

tion et aux ressources, en établissant un revenu annuel de base et en adoptant des politiques qui augmenteraient la main-d'œuvre féminine. Ces recom-

mandatations éventuelles aux ministres permettant à une date ultérieure, Plutôt que participantes ou non à ces échanges, dont des historiens de l'art, des économistes, des géographes et des chercheurs en sciences politiques, ont été invités à contribuer au débat. Les débats ont été enregistrés et diffusés par l'Institut national de l'audiovisuel (INA) et sont accessibles sur le site de l'Institut national de l'histoire de l'art (Inha). Les débats ont été enregistrés et diffusés par l'Institut national de l'audiovisuel (INA) et sont accessibles sur le site de l'Institut national de l'histoire de l'art (Inha).

propositions de la santé. Les trois premières cliniques d'acupuncture s'ouvriront à Toronto, Waterloo et Sudbury.

Les prochaines réalisations se tiendront les 11 et 12 mars à Thun- der Bay, le 13 mars à Attikokan et en juin à Ottawa. ♦

◆ **Intirmières praticiennes :** Le gouvernement a recommandé qu'il soit combiné à l'ensemble des autres formes spéciales. Elles ouvrent une formation complète. Elles sont destinées aux infirmières praticiennes qui ont terminé leur formation et qui ont obtenu une licence de travailleur social ou une licence de travailleur social en tant que membre d'une équipe de soins de santé. Le gouvernement provincial envisage qu'un groupe de professionnels et de travailleurs de la santé travaille ensemble pour assurer la qualité de la formation et pour assurer la sécurité des patients.

◆ **Orientations sexuelles :** Le gouvernement s'est engagé à adopter une loi en vertu de laquelle les personnes de sexe peuvent déclarer leur orientation sexuelle au même moment que les personnes de sexe opposé. Nous continuons de faire des efforts pour améliorer les conditions de vie des personnes de sexe opposé. Nous appuyons l'adoption d'un projet de loi qui comprend plusieurs mesures pour protéger les individus.

Le conseil a organiser une sorte de consultations régionales avec des délégués de la Condition Bloyd, ministre délégué à la Condition gemmine, Lloyd Laugheren, ministre des Transports et Sharon Mudrook, députée locale, ont informé les 125 familles qui résident dans diverses régions de l'Ontario. La première réunion a eu lieu à Sudbury en octobre 1993. Marion Consell qui représente la région, Jo- Ann Jolmson, Pliseurs artisans mem- bre du Conseil ainsi que Wayne Léssard, député local, étaient également présents. Plusieurs questions ont été soulevées lors de cette réunion, notamment les procédures à l'égard des programmes de création d'emplois qui ont lieu dans les établissements d'enseignement. Des questions ont également été posées sur le fonctionnement des cours des établissements scolaires à la discrimination et au harcèlement sexuel à l'école. Les questions touchant à l'égalité entre les hommes et les femmes, à la discrimination raciale, aux discriminations basées sur l'origine ethnique et aux discriminations fondées sur l'âge ont également été abordées. Les questions portant sur le fonctionnement des établissements scolaires ont été abordées, notamment celles concernant les méthodes d'enseignement et les critères de sélection des enseignants. Les questions portant sur le fonctionnement des établissements scolaires ont également été abordées, notamment celles concernant les méthodes d'enseignement et les critères de sélection des enseignants.

- ◆ **Equité d'emploi**: Un projet de loi sur l'égalité d'emploi a été adopté et devrait être décreté en décembre 1993. Ce projet de loi accorde une aide aux entreprises en difficulté que l'Etat peut délivrer aux entreprises qui embauchent et recruent des personnes sans emploi. Ces deux programmes ont du mérite mais nous crions dans un nombre très faible aux personnes sans emploi.
- ◆ **Equité d'emploi**: Un projet de loi sur l'égalité d'emploi pour toute la population a été décreté en octobre 1992. Il autorise les entreprises à faire des embauches temporaires dans le secteur public et à donner des emplois à temps partiel. Il autorise également les entreprises à faire des embauches temporaires dans le secteur public et à donner des emplois à temps partiel. Il autorise également les entreprises à faire des embauches temporaires dans le secteur public et à donner des emplois à temps partiel.
- ◆ **Sages-femmes**: L'Ontario est la première province à légaliser la profession de sage-femme et à imiter la législation québécoise qui interdit l'infécondité. Les sages-femmes ont subi une révolution. Les sages-femmes ont obtenu un système de soins de santé qui leur permet de pratiquer leur statut juridique en tant que profession de sage-femme.

◆ **Autorlement** : Ottawa est la première ville en déhors de Toronto à avoir obtenu la première clinique mentale provinciale. Nous estimons qu'il devrait y avoir davantage de cliniques d'autorlement, surtout dans le Nord de l'Ontario où les services d'autorlement sont difficilement accessibles.

◆ **Expense des droits** : est la première commission d'État à avoir obtenu la première clinique mentale provinciale. Nous estimons qu'il devrait y avoir davantage de cliniques d'autorlement, surtout dans le Nord de l'Ontario où les services d'autorlement sont difficilement accessibles.

◆ **Garde d'enfants** : Le gouvernement a une législation de 1891 qui empêche les enfants de moins de 14 ans d'aller à l'école. C'est une mesure qui a été prise pour empêcher les enfants de faire partie de la classe ouvrière. C'est une mesure qui a été prise pour empêcher les enfants de faire partie de la classe ouvrière.

◆ **Emploi** : Le programme de formation d'emploi du gouvernement fédéral est financé à partir de l'impôt sur les bénéfices et l'impôt sur les bénéfices de l'industrie. Le programme de formation d'emploi du gouvernement fédéral est financé à partir de l'impôt sur les bénéfices et l'impôt sur les bénéfices de l'industrie.

suite à la page 5

Mise à jour de certaines questions

Formation du corps enseignant :

jeunes femmes et qui tiennent compte de leurs besoins uniques en matière d'apprentissage. Nous recommandons que les jeunes filles aient accès au maximum de possibilités d'éducation culture en les encourageant à réaliser leur potentiel en mathématiques et en sciences et que l'enseignement de l'alphabétisation des jeunes filles soit en rapport avec le vécu des jeunes filles. D'autres recommandations mettent en lumière le besoin pour les consélls scolaires d'adopter des manières d'agir qui reflètent les accomplishments culturels des jeunes filles dans le programme d'études secondaires des cours sur la famille. Ces recommandations des cours sur la famille sont la partie à déterminer.

En derrière here

Des défis et des choix Rapport à la Commission royale sur l'éduca-

Jacqueline Pellerin

